

**REMARKS:**

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-16 and 21-23 were pending. Claims 15-16 stand allowed, claims 2 and 10-14 stand objected to, claims 21-23 were withdrawn from consideration, and claims 1 and 3-9 stand rejected. Pursuant to this amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and claim 10 has been cancelled. Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 21-23 remain pending in the subject application.

Allowance of claims 15 and 16 is noted with thanks.

The Examiner withdrew claims 21-23 from consideration because, in the Examiner's opinion, claims 21-23 are directed to an invention that is independent and distinct from the invention originally claimed. The Examiner indicated that the original claims were directed to the species illustrated in Figs. 2-8. However, the Examiner's attention is drawn to original claim 17 that was written to cover all of the embodiments illustrated in the figures, not just the embodiment of Figs. 2-8 as incorrectly asserted by the Examiner. Moreover, although new claim 21 is arguably more narrowly defined than original claim 17, new claim 21 is still generic to all of the species identified by the Examiner. Therefore, since claim 21 is generic, and since claims 21-23 are actually directed to all of the species previously considered by the Examiner, in the interests of fairness, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the election requirement and withdraw the finality of the last Office Action.

The Examiner objected to the specification as failing to provide antecedent basis for the subject matter claimed in claim 2. First, claim 2 was presented in original form with the filing of the application, was reviewed and examined by the Examiner in the Office Action of December 17, 2004, and was not amended in the Amendment of January 28, 2005. If claim 2 and the specification were previously acceptable, it seems untimely for the Examiner to now object to the same, as well as unfair for the applicants to now have to face a final rejection in regards to matters that were previously acceptable. In any event, the Examiner's attention is drawn to Figs. 3 and 5, and paragraph [026] of the

subject application were the flat edge 64 is clearly shown and described. For at least these reasons, removal of the noted objection is respectfully requested.

The objections to claim 1 as noted by the Examiner have been addressed with the current amendment. Thus, removal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Antonucci et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,306). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the cited references, independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define what it is the applicants regard as their invention. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the at least one disc defines a diameter that is slightly larger than the diameter of the open end of the bar. Since Antonucci et al. fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations now recited in amended independent claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by Antonucci et al.

On page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 2 and 10-14 were objected to, but then on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner seems to indicate that claims 2 and 10-14 stand rejected under Antonucci et al. The undersigned is unclear as to the status of claims 2 and 10-14. For this reason, unless the Examiner issues a Notice of Allowance in response to this Amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner should withdraw the finality of the last Office Action to clarify the status of the claims.

It is noted that on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner suggests that the applicants should consider rephrasing that the peripheral edge has a truncated edge or truncated surface. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claim 10 with the modification that

the peripheral edge has a truncated surface. Thus, it is believed that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance.

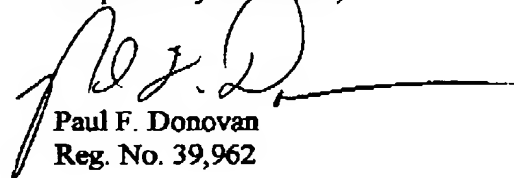
Claims 2-8 and 11-14 depend from one of claims 1 and 9, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

No new matter has been added by way of the remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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